

### REMARKS

This paper responds to the Office Action mailed on January 20, 2006.

Claims 1, 5, 9, 10, 18, and 23 are amended. Claims 1-27 remain pending in this application.

The allowed claim 10 is amended only to correct a typographical error. The amendment to claim 10 does not alter the scope of claim 10.

### In the Drawings

FIG. 9 is amended only for clarity. The amendment does not introduce new matter. Accordingly, Applicant requests approval of the replacement set of the drawings.

### §102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-5, 9, 18-22, and 26-27 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Gould.

Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the reasons presented below.

Independent claim 1 is amended and recites, among other things, a receiver including an input node to receive a transfer signal, and an output node to pass "only the transfer signal" from the input node to the output node. Gould teaches in FIG. 17 an OR gate 666 having a first input node to receive a first input signal (signal from output node of AND gate 664), a second input node to receive a second input signal (signal from Q output of flip-flop 656), and an output node to pass an output signal to input D of flip flop 656. The Office Action compares OR gate 666 of Gould to the receiver of claim 1 and the signal from the output node of AND gate 664 of Gould to the transfer signal of claim 1. However, as shown in FIG. 17 of Gould, OR gate 666 (receiver) *does not* pass *only* the signal from the output node of AND gate 664 (transfer signal) to the output node of OR gate 666. OR gate 666 of Gould passes to its output node a signal that is a result of a logical "OR" of the combination of the signals of *both* the signal from the output node of AND gate 664 and the signal from the Q output of flip-flop 656. Thus, Gould *does not* teach a receiver including an input node to receive a transfer signal, and an output node to pass "only the transfer signal" from the input node to the output node. In contrast, claim 1 recites a

receiver including an input node to receive a transfer signal, and an output node to pass "only the transfer signal" from the input node to the output node.

Claim 1 further recites, "a signal detector connected to the receiver to generate an internal signal based on the transfer signal, wherein the signal detector is configured to hold the internal signal at a first signal level when the transfer signal repeatedly switches between the first signal level and a second signal level, and wherein the signal detector is configured to hold the internal signal at the second signal level when the transfer signal stops switching".

The Office Action compares flip-flop 656 in FIG. 17 of Gould to the signal detector of claim 1 and states that the signal detector of Gould (flip-flop 656) is configured to hold the internal signal (signal at Q' output of flip-flop 656) at a first signal level when the transfer signal (signal from output node of AND gate 664) repeatedly switches between the first signal level and a second signal level, and that the signal detector of Gould is configured to hold the internal signal at the second signal level when the transfer signal stops switching. Applicant respectfully disagrees. As shown in FIG. 17, since the signal at Q' output of flip-flop 656 (internal signal) depends on a logical "OR" result of the combination of the signal from output node of AND gate 664 and the signal from Q output of flip-flop 656, Applicant cannot see how the signal at Q' output of flip-flop 656 would be *held* at a first signal level when the signal from output node of AND gate 664 repeatedly switches between the first signal level and a second signal level.

Even if the signal from output node of AND gate 664 (transfer signal) repeatedly switches, as interpreted by the Office Action, Applicant respectfully submits that the signal detector of Gould is *not* configured to hold the signal at the Q' output of flip-flop 656 (internal signal) at a first signal level when the transfer signal repeatedly switches between the first signal level and a second signal level. For example, in FIG. 18 of Gould, the signal at the Q' output of flip-flop 656 (internal signal) is *not* held at a first signal level but switches from high to low when the transfer signal repeatedly *switches* between the first signal level and a second signal level. See also Gould, column 21, lines 32-49.

Based on all of the reasons presented above, Applicant believes that claim 1 is not anticipated by Gould. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 1.

Dependent claims 2-5 depend from claim 1 and recite the things of claim 1. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 2-5 are also not anticipated by Gould for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 1, and for the additional things recited in claims 2-5. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 2-5.

Independent claim 5 is amended and recites, among other things, "a number of transmitters connected to a first group of terminals of the plurality of terminals to transmit signals to the first group of terminals" and "a number of receivers connected to a second group of terminals of the plurality of terminals to receive signals from the second group of terminals". Applicant is unable to find in Gould "a number of transmitters connected to a first group of terminals of the plurality of terminals to transmit signals to the first group of terminals" and "a number of receivers connected to a second group of terminals of the plurality of terminals to receive signals from the second group of terminals". Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 5.

Dependent claim 9 depends from claim 5 and recites the things of claim 5. Thus, Applicant believes that claim 9 is also not anticipated by Gould for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 5, and for the additional things recited in claim 9. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 9.

Independent claim 18 is amended and recites, among other things, "receiving a transfer signal at an input node of a receiver and passing only the transfer signal from the input node to an output node of the receiver". As discussed above regarding claim 1, Applicant is unable to find in Gould, "receiving a transfer signal at an input node of a receiver and passing only the transfer signal from the input node to an output node of the receiver".

Claim 18 further recites, "holding an internal signal at a first signal level when the transfer signal stays at one of the first signal level and a second signal level; holding the internal signal at a second signal level when the transfer signal repeatedly switches between the first and second signal levels; and switching the internal signal from the second signal level to the first signal level when the transfer signal stops switching". For reasons at least similar to those discussed above regarding claim 1, Applicant is unable to find in Gould, "holding an internal signal at a first signal level when the transfer signal stays at one of the first signal level and a

second signal level; holding the internal signal at a second signal level when the transfer signal repeatedly switches between the first and second signal levels; and switching the internal signal from the second signal level to the first signal level when the transfer signal stops switching". Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claim 18.

Dependent claims 19-22, 26, and 27 depend from claim 18 and recite the things of claim 18. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 19-22, 26, and 27 are also not anticipated by Gould for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 18, and for the additional things recited in claims 19-22, 26, and 27. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 19-22, 26, and 27.

#### §103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 6-8 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gould in view of Janus et al.

Applicant respectfully disagrees for at least the reasons presented below.

Applicant is unable to find a motivation to combine Gould and Janus et al., as proposed by the Office Action. Further, claim 6-8 depend from claim 5. Thus, Applicant believes that claims 6-8 are patentable over Gould and Janus et al., whether considered individually or in combination, for at least the reasons presented above regarding claim 5 and for the additional things recited in claims 6-8. Accordingly, Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of claims 6-8.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 10-17 were allowed.

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 10-17.

Claims 23-25 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 23 is rewritten in independent form. The rewriting does not alter the scope of claim 23. Thus, claim 23 and its dependent claims 24 and 25 are now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney ((612) 373-6969) to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being filed using the USPTO's electronic filing system EFS-Web, and is addressed to: MS Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 20th day of April, 2006.

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